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<b>(21) International Application Number:</b> PCT/US98/01191 <b>(22) International Filing Date:</b> 20 January 1998 (20.01.98)  <b>(30) Priority Data:</b> 60/036,200 21 January 1997 (21.01.97) US  <b>(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):</b> THE DEXTER CORPORATION [US/US]; One Elm Street, Windsor Locks, CT 06096-2334 (US).  <b>(72) Inventors; and</b> <b>(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only):</b> FERREIRA, Rui, B. [US/US]; 28 Julia Court, Broad Brook, CT 06016 (US). RIEGER, Joseph, A. [US/US]; 3 Dominique Lane, Simsbury, CT 06070 (US).  <b>(74) Agents:</b> ALIX, James, E. et al.; Alix, Yale & Ristas, 750 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06103-2721 (US).		<b>(81) Designated States:</b> AU, BR, CA, CZ, HU, JP, KR, MX, PL, RO, RU, SI, SK, UA, US, YU, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).  <b>Published</b> <i>With international search report.</i>
<b>(54) Title:</b> WET-LAID NONWOVEN WEB FROM UNPULPED NATURAL FIBERS AND COMPOSITE CONTAINING SAME  <b>(57) Abstract</b>  Wet-laid nonwoven webs having mechanical reinforcement properties are provided by employing unpulped vegetable fiber bundles as the predominant fiber component. The unpulped fiber bundles have a modulus of elasticity of about $2 - 5 \times 10^6$ psi and a chopped fiber length of about 25 mm. The fibers are cordage fibers including sisal, abaca, henequen, kenaf and jute. Composites of the unpulped fiber webs with cellulosic and spunbonded sheets find application as thermoformed vehicle interior trim products.		